

paper by means of the patronage of his department—the rest of Hamilton's charges fell harmless to the ground.

The question of the ethics involved in Jefferson's connection with Freneau may safely be left an open one; but it may be remarked that, from that day to the present, many influential editors have fared much better in the matter of Federal appointments than did Freneau. However, it may be questioned if any editor since Freneau has ever established a paper at the instigation of a Cabinet official.—It is perhaps significant that we look in vain in Jefferson's "Anas" for any mention of overtures to Freneau or of this controversy.

The ultimate effect of the quarrel upon the prestige of Hamilton, both personally and politically, was fatal. "He lost," says Parton, "something which is of no value to— an anonymous writer in a Presidential campaign, but it is of immense value to a public man—weight." Apart from the effect upon Hamilton, the effect upon the future of our country was of the greatest importance. The triumph of Hamilton meant a strong central government administered in the English spirit, while that of Jefferson meant a light and easy central government that would respond readily to the will of the populace; and the Freneau matter is of the utmost importance as it led the way to a decisive struggle before the tribunal of popular opinion.

Jefferson's Cabinet opinions and his recommendations and reports submitted to the House of Representatives concerned both domestic and foreign affairs and embraced a large range of subjects. The "Report on the Privileges and Restrictions of the Commerce of the United States in Foreign Countries" deserves especial notice. It was an elaboration of a tabulated statement previously made of commercial relations with the British and French dominions. It enters clearly but succinctly into the subject of our imports from Spain, Portugal, France, Great Britain, the United Netherlands, Denmark, and Sweden. It sets forth what commercial articles of ours were received by them, and on what terms. Universal free trade, Jefferson held, is as a principle most advantageous; but so long as foreign restrictions on our commerce and carrying trade continued,